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INVESTIGATION IS HARDLY PROBABLE

VICTORY IS WON BY ACCOUNTANTS

Chesterfield Situation Presented
and Considered by Senate
Committee.

Committee Kills Bill Designed to
Abolish State Examining
Board.

For more than three months last night, the Senate Committee on Public Institutions and Education listened to the complaints of citizens of Chesterfield against the conduct of the school system, and to the replies from the Department of Public Instruction.

After a night lasting most of the day, the House Committee on General Laws last evening dealt a gentle rap which put to sleep for the session the Rutherford bill, designed to abolish the State Board of Accountancy.

Although the committee reached no conclusion on the matter before it, the resolution calling for an investigation of the department by a legislative joint committee—it seemed to be understood that it will not recommend the resolution for passage. All save the Chesterfield residents seemed to recognize that no charges worth the cost of investigation had been made, and that the expense of summoning witnesses and producing evidence will not be gone into.

The bill was advocated at the morning session by James C. Page, an attorney. It was understood that he represented men who had been refused certificates by the board to practice as certified public accountants. He thought the fee of \$25 unjust and too large, and said that old practitioners who had been at work before the law was passed should be given certificates, as was the case with attorneys and physicians. He also felt that the prices charged by accountants had been increased since this law went into effect, naming a case in Goochland county, where a charge of \$25 per day had been made the county for an examination of books.

Boiled down, the charges were that reports of the division superintendent of schools had been changed after being filed in the office of the Department of Public Instruction; that there were unexplained balances in the statements; that outstanding warrants were held and not reported; that the reports were not properly itemized, and that it was largely impossible to get evidence because people were afraid of losing their jobs.

Joseph Stebbins, Jr., member of the House from Halifax, and of the accountancy board, said the board would be willing to rest its entire case on the examination papers of the men who had been refused certificates. If any competent authority said these men should be allowed to practice as certified public accountants, then the board would agree that the act be repealed.

Secretary R. C. Stearnes, of the State Board of Education, showed the committee the efforts that had been made to secure accurate reports and told how these are frequently corrected because mistakes have been found, this applying to many counties in every year. He read from the school laws to show that the matters could be taken to the Circuit Court or to the county school board. Finally, he said that if any wrong had been done, the records were there in hand, so that children could have the benefit of its use.

W. P. Hilton, of Norfolk, found out by the afternoon session that the Goochland charge of \$25 the day had been made for the services of two men.

Then the committee killed the bill.

Foreman Robertson, of the grand jury which had the matter in charge, told how Judge Walter A. Watson charged that body that nothing criminal had been done. Former Superintendent Hazen said that he could not get his reports in time, because the information was lacking, and that he sent in the corrected reports later, and that for years he could get no accurate reports from the treasurer's office. He said that he gave to his office only such time as he could spare from his other duties.

All fear of differences between the cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk growing out of the proposed acquisition of the Norfolk county water supply companies through condemnation proceedings disappeared last night, when a

large delegation from the twin cities agreed upon amendments to Senator Leamer's Norfolk water bill. The drafting of the amendments followed a public hearing before the Senate Committee on County City and Town Organization, begun a week ago and finished last night.

The water situation in Norfolk and Portsmouth, it developed, is far from satisfactory to the residents of the two cities, and the Leamer measure propose to give the city of Norfolk the right to acquire the holdings of the present privately owned companies through condemnation proceedings. Representatives from Portsmouth, the sister city on the other side of the Elizabeth river, opposed the passage of any law to this end until its interests were properly safeguarded. It was advanced by these, at an earlier meeting, that unless certain provisions were made part of the law, Norfolk would be in a position, if it chose, to fix arbitrary rates and restrictions for water service in Portsmouth.

Same Privileges for Both. The bills as amended provide that any city on the Elizabeth River or any branch thereof, which shall acquire or maintain a water works system, shall supply water on the east and west side of the river, charging the same rates and maintaining the same quality and pressure. This provision is made to apply to a district extending within two miles of the corporate limits of both cities.

The city acquiring such water works, it is further provided, in consideration of the use of the streets and alleys of the other town shall furnish free of charge all necessary water for fire hydrants, flushing sewers, public buildings, and similar civic enterprises. The number of hydrants and other facilities requiring this service is to be determined by the city not in possession of the water works.

TELLS HOW MAINE
BEAT OUT LIQUOR

Temperance Speaker Gives Legislature General Idea as to Conditions.

"Temperance reformers have much to cheer them in these later days," said Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, national president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, last night. "Many branches of business are to-day demanding absolute sobriety in their employees, and leading scientists of world over are united in condemning the use of alcoholic beverages."

So far is latter statement true, said the speaker, that an eminent German scientist has recently declared that Germany will have to down beer, or beer will down Germany.

of the House, presented the lecturer. "Reams of Dry Statistics."

"I could go on giving you reams of 'dry' statistics indefinitely," said Mrs. Stevens, completing a somewhat elaborate schedule of the progress Maine has made under a prohibitory law in force more than a half hundred years, "but there is no need of it. Prohibition has reduced the consumption of liquor in the State of Maine, and the large sums of money that were spent by liquorism in an effort to swing the State into the wet column is ample proof of that statement."

The situation in Maine and other dry States, she thought, would be much better if Congress would enact a nation-wide law prohibiting the shipment of liquor from wet into dry territory. She referred in complimentary terms to the recent attempt of Congressman Richmond Pearson Hobson to have Congress ratify a resolution committing it to the principle of national prohibition.

It was announced immediately before the address that the Virginia Woman's Christian Temperance Union will hold an all-day meeting to-day in the Broad Street Methodist Church, beginning at 10:30 o'clock. In the evening at 10:30 there will be a public reception at the Executive Mansion, in honor of the officers of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Here and There in the Legislature

(Continued From Eighth Page.)

The House Committee for Courts of Justice. It would require the Supreme Court to give reasons in writing for refusing writs of error. The objection is that it would more than double the work of the court, and would lessen the weight of cases which have been argued.

This committee also reported a bill of Mr. Watts, requiring the color of the grantor and grantee in deeds to be indicated.

It also approved the Stebbins bill providing for uniform bills of lading.

A bill providing for the employment of some of the dangerous convicts in limestone quarries was offered yesterday in the House by Messrs. Adams, Bergamin, Clarke, Ivey, Land, Radford and Robertson. The board to have this in charge is composed of the directors of the penitentiary, the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the secretary of the State Board of Charities and Corrections.

Mr. Milstead has a bill aimed at the combinations of insurance companies in the matter of rates, out of which recently grew prosecutions in his city of Newport News.

A sweeping measure aimed at trusts, monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade was introduced by W. B. Fitzhugh. It defines a trust as an organization which fixes the price, lessens the production or sale, or restricts the output of products.

Daniel Coleman, of Norfolk, had a bill yesterday afternoon before the House Committee on General Laws providing that supervisors and councils may fix salaries for sealers of weights and measures, in lieu of fees. At this request of City Attorney Pollard, Richmond was accepted and the bill reported.

The ice cream bill, requiring those who deal in cream made from skimmed or condensed milk to display a sign to that effect, was reported yesterday morning from the House Committee on General Laws.

The Warrenton dispensary bill was partly heard yesterday morning by the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns. But it seemed that the measure was not on hand, a copy of the Senate bill being used, and the matter went over. There was no one in opposition.

Another dispensary bill made its appearance yesterday in the House, offered by W. A. Willeroy, allowing West Point to vote on the question. There have been many such measures talked of at this session. Salem and Blackstone had the matter up, but the representatives refused to introduce the measures. Williamsburg's proposed dispensary was killed in committee, while Warrenton's, Lynchburg's, McHenry's, West Point's and Fredericksburg's are pending.

A bill to make uniform with other

States the law relating to the sale of stock feeds was introduced in the House yesterday by Mr. Meetez.

A bill to require counties which have received State aid for roads to set apart 1 per cent. of the bond issue each year to keep roads in repair was offered yesterday by Messrs. Chalkley and Clarke. If they do not spend this sum the Highway Commissioner may withhold future State aid. But if counties put up half, the commissioner may use State money for repairs.

One more bill regarding education has been offered by S. H. Love. It allows division superintendents' salaries to be as low as \$200 a year, instead of \$500, as at present, and permits their employment for only a portion of the time. He would also have the accounts of the Department of Public Instruction audited by the State Board of Education before they are paid.

Senator Harman's match bill, which was made the subject of a general assault by the match manufacturers of the country, was reported in the form of a substitute yesterday afternoon by the Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking. The original bill prohibited the sale in the State of Virginia of all matches save those which require a specially prepared surface for ignition. It was aimed to destroy the sale of the "strike-anywhere" match, which, it was claimed, was the frequent cause

of fire and loss of life. In its amended form the bill permits the sale also of certain special double-dip and imprugated matches. The measure provides regulations governing their storage and manner of sale.

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking completed yesterday afternoon a four week's examination into the merits of Senator Saunders' quartet of bills regulating banking. All of the bills were reported without amendments. Their object in general is to require stricter accounting and reporting systems than are at present in vogue, to the end that the interest of the State as well as the depositor shall be more thoroughly safeguarded.

How About It?

Do you enjoy a weird story—one that carries you out in the cold of a winter night—in the pursuit of a strange phantom? Try

"The Hunting Call,"
By HUGH PENDEXTER

And if you want to glimpse into a life story---see a little life shipwrecked, and be a mute witness of a tragedy of man and woman love, you must read those blood-warming

"Leaves from a Nurse's Diary,"
By LEONIE WOODWARD

When They Were Twenty-One

On his twenty-first birthday he was setting type, now he is the greatest of living American novelists. Who he is and how he did it, is the subject of an interesting article. Hy Gage has made some funny cartoons to go with it. All in

The Times-Dispatch
Illustrated Magazine Next Sunday



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